

**REMARKS**

The Examiner objected to claims 11, 16, and 18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 8-10, 15, 17, and 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gossman (US 6,181,935) in view of Ebata (US 6,513,061).

The Examiner rejected claims 12-14 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the combination of Gossman and Ebata as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Hagirahim (US 6,449,284).

Applicants respectfully traverse the §103(a) rejections with the following arguments.

**35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 8-10, 15, 17, and 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gossman (US 6,181,935) in view of Ebata (US 6,513,061). Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 12-14 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the combination of Gossman and Ebata as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Hagirahim (US 6,449,284).

The Examiner stated that claims 11, 16, and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Based on the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants have: added new claim 24 as being the same claim as claim 11 rewritten in independent form; amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 16; and amended claim 8 to incorporate the limitations of claim 18. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully contend that claims 24, 11, and 8 are in condition for allowance. Since claims 25-28 depend from claim 24, Applicants contend that claims 25-28 are likewise in condition for allowance. Since claims 12-15 depend from claim 1, Applicants contend that claims 12-15 are likewise in condition for allowance. Since claims 9 and 19-23 depend from claim 8, Applicants respectfully contend that claims 9 and 19-23 are likewise in condition for allowance.

Applicants have amended claim 4 to substantially include the feature of claim 16 which made claim 16 allowable. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 4 is not unpatentable over Gossman in view of Ebata, because Gossman in view of Ebata does not teach or suggest: "means for assembling responses from applications provided by the service nodes and for using said assembled responses to construct service lists for delivery to the message service means for

performing said arbitration". Accordingly, Applicants respectfully contend that claim 4 is in condition for allowance.

### CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invites the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

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